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VOC FOR IOP/FN, VOA MUNICH FOR HOPKINS.
POLITICAL FEATURE 1-1545 SEPTEMBER 30, 1976
MARK DILLEN/WASHINGTON

U.S. CORRESPONDENT ON U.S.S.R.

ANNCR:

A FORMER MOSCOW CORRESPONDENT FOR NEWSWEEK MAGAZINE, ALFRED FRIENDLY, JUNIOR, HAS RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES AND RECENTLY GAVE SOME OF HIS OBSERVATIONS ON SOVIET SOCIETY. VOA'S MARK DILLEN REPORTS.

VOICE:

MISTER FRIENDLY, WHO ENDED A TWO-YEAR STAY IN MOSCOW IN JUNE, FOCUSED HIS COMMENTS TO A NATIONAL WOMEN'S GROUP ON THREE SIGNS OF WEAKNESS IN THE SOVIET SYSTEM -- CORRUPTION, DECEIT AND DISSENT. CORRUPTION -- HE FOUND IN THE BLACK MARKET BARTERING OF GOODS AND SERVICES FOR SPECIAL FAVORS. DECEIT -- IN WHAT HE CALLED THE "CONSENSUAL HYPOCRISY" OF GOVERNMENT LYING AND PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF IT. AND DISSENT -- WHICH HE DEFINED AS A STATE OF MIND THAT COMPELS INDIVIDUALS TO EXPOSE SOCIAL FAULTS AT GREAT PERSONAL SACRIFICE. TOGETHER THESE FACTORS DO N O T MAKE FOR A WEAK SOVIET GOVERNMENT -- MISTER FRIENDLY SAID -- BUT D O SHOW THE KIND OF SOCIAL "DISHARMONIES" FROM WHICH CHANGE USUALLY COMES.

HIS CONCLUSIONS -- HE SAID -- WERE N O T THOSE OF AN EXPERT, BUT WERE SIMPLY BASED ON HIS OBSERVATIONS AS A CORRESPONDENT. USING ANECDOTES AND EXAMPLES, MISTER FRIENDLY DETAILED HIS SURPRISE AT THE EXTENT OF CORRUPTION:

<u>TAPE: CUT ONE -- FRIENDLY</u>

"CORRUPTION IS A WAY OF LIFE OPEN TO ANYONE WHO CAN TRADE STOLEN BRICKS OR SPARK PLUGS FOR A HARD-TO-GET ANTIBIOTIC -- OR PRIORITY FOR A CHEAP VACATION AT THE BLACK SEA. IT'S THE TWO-THOUSAND-RUBLE BRIBE JUST TO GET YOUR NAME DOWN ON A LIST TO BUY A FIFTY-SIX-HUNDRED RUBLE CO-OPERATIVE APARTMENT IN MOSCOW. IT'S THE DEAL THAT'S DONE EVERY DAY TO PAY A SELLER TWICE THE OFFICIAL PRICE OF HIS USED CAR..."

VOICE:

MISTER FRIENDLY CONTENDED THAT THIS KIND OF CORRUPTION WAS THE RESULT OF THE SOVIET UNION'S FIXED-PRICE ECONOMY -- AND HAD BECOME BOTH THE MEANS FOR CONDUCTING A REAL ECONOMY AND A SEVERE DRAIN ON IT. DECEIT -- HE SAID -- SURFACED ALSO THROUGHOUT THE SOCIETY. ONE RECENT EXAMPLE -- HE SAID -- WAS THE ISSUING OF MONEY FOR NEW CLOTHING FOR DELEGATES TO THIS YEAR'S COMMUNIST PARTY CONGRESS TO IMPROVE THEIR APPEARANCE ON TELEVISION. THEN HE SAID THE DELEGATES WERE GIVEN STIMULANTS TO KEEP THEM AWAKE TO APPLAUD THE LONG CONGRESS SPEECHES. THE CORRESPONDENT SAID THE AVERAGE CITIZEN AVENGES SUCH LIES WITH HIS OWN DECEITS:

TAPE: CUT TWO -- FRIENDLY

"THEY FALSIFY GRADES IN SCHOOL BECAUSE TEACHERS ONLY GET PROMOTED IF THEIR STUDENTS DO WELL, AND PRODUCTION FIGURES ON THE JOB BECAUSE THE PLAN MUST BE MET -- AT LEAST ON PAPER. THEY GO THROUGH THE ROUTINES OF PRETENDING ENTHUSIASM FOR PARTY DECREES AND GO HOME AND FORGET BOTH THE RHETORIC AND THE PLEDGES THEY MADE. THEY TUNE OUT THE PROPAGANDA, THEY GROW INCREASINGLY APATHETIC, AND IF THEY ARE EASY TO RULE, THEY ARE HARD TO LEAD."

VOICE:

THERE ARE OTHER SOVIET CITIZENS, FAR FEWER IN NUMBER, WHOM MISTER FRIENDLY SEES IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT. FOR THEM "CONSCIENCE IS STRONGER THAN REASON," AND THEY JEOPARDIZE THEIR CAREERS AND LIVES TO VOICE THEIR VIEWS. MISTER FRIENDLY SAID THE MOST REMARKABLE CASE OF DISSENT HE HEARD OF DURING HIS TWO YEARS IN MOSCOW INVOLVED A TWENTY-THREE-YEAR-OLD PRISON CELLMATE OF TATAR ACTIVIST MUSTAFA DZHEMILEV, A MAN NAMED VLADIMIR DVORYANSKY. WHEN DZHEMILEV WAS CHARGED WITH DISSEMINATING HOSTILE PROPAGANDA FROM HIS CELL -- JUST AS HIS TERM WAS ENDING -- YOUNG DVORYANSKY WAS ASKED TO TESTIFY AGAINST HIM. FORCED TO SIGN AN INCRIMINATING STATEMENT, DVORYANSKY REFUSED TO TESTIFY IN COURT, AND WAS INDICTED FOR PERJURY.

SHORTLY BEFORE MISTER FRIENDLY WAS DUE TO LEAVE MOSCOW FOR ANOTHER ASSIGNMENT, THE SOVIET WEEKLY LITERATURNAYA GAZETA ACCUSED HIM AND TWO OTHER AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS OF WORKING FOR THE U.S. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY. INDIVIDUALLY, THE THREE DENIED THE CHARGES, AND ALMOST THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY OF WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS IN MOSCOW SIGNED A PROTEST OVER THE ACCUSATION. MISTER FRIENDLY ALSO FILED SUIT IN A SOVIET COURT AGAINST THE JOURNAL -- BUT THE CASE WAS N O T SCHEDULED UNTIL AFTER HE LEFT THE COUNTRY.

NOW BACK IN THE UNITED STATES, MISTER FRIENDLY HAS TAKEN THE JOB OF DEPUTY STAFF DIRECTOR FOR THE OFFICIAL COMMISSION CREATED BY CONGRESS TO MONITOR THE HELSINKI ACCORD. HE SAYS HIS EXPERIENCE IN THE SOVIET UNION PLAYED A LARGE ROLE IN HIS DECISION TO TAKE THE JOB -- SINCE HE THINKS THE SOVIET RECORD ON THE HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES ESPOUSED AT HELSINKI HAS N O T MUCH IMPROVED SINCE THE SIGNING. AND -- SAYS MISTER FRIENDLY -- "IF THEY -- THE SOVIET UNION -- CANNOT KEEP THEIR WORD ON THINGS BASIC -- FREEDOMS -- THEN IT'S A MEASURE OF HOW LONG A ROAD WE HAVE TO TRAVEL IN OTHER FIELDS."

MISTER FRIENDLY SAYS THE RIGHT TO EXPRESS DISSENTING VIEWS MUST BE GUARANTEED -- BUT EVEN IF IT IS N O T, THE EXAMPLE OF THOSE WHO TRY WILL BE POWERFUL. HE MENTIONS -- TO SUPPORT THIS -- A STATEMENT TO HIM BY DISSIDENT VLADIMIR TURCHIN, A LEADER OF THE SOVIET BRANCH OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL:

<u>TAPE: CUT THREE -- FRIENDLY</u>

"SIMPLY THE EXAMPLE OF ONE MAN -- ANDREI SAKHAROV -- WHO'S NOT AFRAID TO SPEAK THE WHOLE TRUTH ALL THE TIME, GIVES COURAGE TO HUNDREDS OF OTHERS TO SPEAK SOME TRUTH AND TO ACT ON THEIR BELIEFS. AND THEIR EXAMPLE HAS ITS EFFECT ON THOUSANDS AND EVEN TENS OF THOUSANDS WHO ARE FARTHER REMOVED WHO MAY AT SOME TIME SAY WHAT THEY THINK. WHAT IT DOES TO THE WAY MILLIONS OF OTHERS THINK EVEN IF THEY SAY NOTHING IS SOMETHING WE CAN ONLY GUESS AT."

VOICE:

THE VIEWS OF ALFRED FRIENDLY, JUNIOR, RECENTLY RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES AFTER TWO YEARS AS MOSCOW CORRESPONDENT FOR NEWSWEEK MAGAZINE.

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